

The Sun

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication will have their articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Governor's Mentor.

It would be difficult to find praise fitting the courage, wisdom and good taste displayed by the Borough President of this town in his open letter to the Hon. JOHN A. DIX, reminding the Governor of the misapprehension which exists in the mind of the Chief Executive of this State. Like all great actions, Mr. MCANENY'S is original; not in our memory has a Borough President of this Manhattan so intrepidly undertaken to extend the boundaries of his empire or the influence of his office.

Theoretically the Borough President is a subordinate of the Governor, subordinate in the sense that he is subject to removal by the Governor on charges. Within the mere textual limitations of the charter the Borough President's concern is with the minor necessities of city life, with such trivial things as pavements, for example, or details of fire inspection. But not even the New York city charter's endless pages can shackle genius or bind a McAneny.

It is probable that it never occurred to the Hon. JOHN A. DIX to consult the Borough President of Manhattan before making an appointment. In his blindness, we assume, he conceived that the approval of the State Senate required by law was difficult enough to obtain without excursions into the unknown. But the Governor was mistaken. He knows that now, Mr. MCANENY has shown him his mistake.

What the office of Borough President has always needed and never before had was a man great enough to display complete contempt for all the sordid details of his field. Such a public official Mr. MCANENY is, and as the people of this town stumble or fall on the broken pavement, or lie prostrate in the barricaded streets, we venture to say that no temporary discomfort will distract their attention from the fact that an office long neglected is now occupied by a man before whom corporations must tremble and Governors should quail.

It requires no profound gift of prophecy to foresee the time when the newest of Public Service Commissioners, the Hon. J. SERGEANT CREAM, will stand a suppliant before the Governor of this State begging him to defer action on charges asking the removal of the Borough President of Manhattan, charges which at least once have been sent to Albany, long enough to permit Mr. MCANENY to complete the great task to which he has dedicated his life, that of providing rapid transit for this town.

As for Governor DIX, having read Mr. MCANENY'S letter, we can imagine how suddenly as if by midnight flash it was borne in upon him how much the smallest office gains even in comparison with the largest when it is filled by one of the wisely chosen captains of the uncommon people.

The Prevailing Political Doctrine Applied to Finance.

The Congressional Record of June 1 contains what may be called a character study, from the documents, by Senator BURTON of Ohio of a Western promoter, journalist, educator, philanthropist, whose financial genius and love of the people have brought upon him, doubtless unjustly, the suspicions of the Post Office Department, the affection of the Hon. JEFF DAVIS, the Low Combed Rooster of Arkansas. Mr. BURTON has met the distinguished financier and friend of the people in question, got a favorable impression of him, but attributes to him too great a diversity of schemes, a few of which are here set down:

"People's United States Bank, University City Bank, People's Savings Trust Company, American Women's League, University Heights Realty and Development Company, People's University, Woman's National Daily, Lewis Addressing Machine Company, Controller Company of America."

"The following concerns also appear to have been promoted by Mr. F. G. Lewis, but were not investigated by post office inspectors: Progressive Watch Company, California Vineyards Company, Hygiene Remedy Company."

"I do not know whether that is a water cure or an ice cream cure, or what it is: Chemical Freezer Company, Anti-Cavity Company."

"That is the natural complement of the United States Fiber Stopper Company. (Laughter.) Clare Art Company, Faultless Suspender Company."

"And many others."

The Sellersian, the inventive, the creative temperament. Mr. BURTON estimates its product, in the case of this promoter of it, at \$10,000,000 in ten years, taken "mostly from women who could ill afford to lose it, servant girls, washerwomen, boarding house keepers—often the savings of a lifetime."

We are not interested to follow the fortunes of companies set afoot by this

genius, who according to one account first dawned upon the world of money in Memphis, Tenn., "where he blew in from some mysterious realm with a bug or rat poison." Our own interest in him is to show that he adopted in finance the means of persuasion so triumphantly used by our most progressive and popular statesmen. For instance, in recommending the People's United States Bank, organized to receive savings deposits and do a mail order banking business, he used this exquisitely modern political language:

"I pledge you all, here and now, that I will give my life and my heart's blood before one tiny speck of that confidence or one penny of that money shall ever be misplaced. . . . It is the king of banks, the dictator of the wealthy man's bank; for it is the people's bank, created by their small sums, each all directors, none of them borrowers, and its debtors will be the great banking institutions of wealthy men. I am straining every nerve to organize for you what I believe to be the greatest bank in the world. I am arranging my resources to put a million dollars into our bank myself and then trustee my stock so that its earnings will go into the reserve of the bank each year, and so that no wealthy scoundrel with the riches of Croesus can ever gain control of our bank; for he must first collect from all over the nation a million dollars of the stock in small sums to effect my single trusted business. He could not do it. In my hands will always be the election of the officers and directors, all by serving you truly, and well they will hold their positions and I tell you again that I would rather be president of that bank and the Women's Magazine than President of the United States."

Men are seeking and have long been seeking to be Presidents of the United States by an exactly parallel appeal to the people against "greed." A few more words from this delicious friend of the producing classes:

"I will sacrifice the flesh on my body before the purpose of this great bank shall be moved one inch from the path laid out; and I ask you in turn for that confidence and love, and it is the sweetest wine that can ever pass a man's lips. . . . A bank which, never speculating, puts its capital in gilt securities, will forever stand as the tower of safety and strength to a million families whose savings and all its guards. . . . No man, no matter what his wealth, or any combination of men, can ever change the purpose for which this great bank has been organized or ever divert its funds from the absolutely safe investment of the surplus of the bank in obtaining the consent of nearly 70,000 different stockholders. . . . I will put a stumbling block in the path of the man whose greed for wealth shall ever tempt him to stock job or bleed it that will break his neck before he can surmount it. I hope to see the day when an election to the board of this bank will be harder to gain and more sought after than an election to Congress."

The Supreme Court of Missouri called this eloquence "afflatus rhodomontade." With full respect to the court, it is the prevailing gospel of politics. If the women folks responded generously, that merely shows that they yielded to the same arguments and are as true as the men who drink rapturously the yawn of the most illustrious and successful American statesmen of the last few years, of the present, and apparently of the immediate future.

The Declaration of London Assured.

The approval of the Declaration of London by the Imperial Conference, sometimes called the Colonial Conference, seems to settle the question whether the Declaration, which contains a set of rules for the guidance of the International Prize Court, will be ratified by England. There have been, and there will continue to be, honest differences of opinion about the effect of these rules upon the welfare of England when engaged in war. That the rules will work to her advantage when she is a neutral cannot seriously be disputed.

Critics of the Declaration, which was drawn up by delegates from Great Britain, France, Germany, the United States, Japan, Russia, Italy, Austria and Holland in February, 1909, have generally maintained that England would be delivered into the hands of Germany in the event of war with that country if the Declaration were ratified by England. Mr. H. W. WILSON, the naval expert, in bitterly assailing it, has used this language in a recent issue of the National Review:

"We allow the destruction of our ships when other Powers are at war; we imperil our food supplies, we expose our commerce to the deadliest form of attack; we hamper our fleet; we abandon the rules and laws of our own prize courts, with their high standard of justice and humanity, for a new code made in Germany, inferior in humanity and equity; on every vital point we surrender our connections, and we treat the dominions as though they were of less account than Persia, Colombia and Uruguay. A nation which accepts such a code deserves to become the rich but defenceless prey of peoples who will not sell their destiny for a mess of pottage. The Declaration of London is a lamentable proof that the spirit of PITY and PALMERSTON has disappeared from British diplomacy."

But it is as bad as all that? The fear that England's food supply would be cut off in case of war is prompted by the clause in the Declaration that allows foodstuffs carried in neutral bottoms to be seized by the enemy's ships, that is to say foodstuffs consigned to or intended for the army and navy, which thus become contraband. It would be a question of evidence, which no doubt a rival sea power would construe to suit itself, with the understanding, however, that the case would go on appeal to the International Prize Court. It has been pointed out that the sum of England's food supply carried in neutral ships is comparatively small. The bulk of foodstuffs is carried in British ships, and if the British navy could not protect them the supplies brought by neutral ships, even if all of them were captured, would not save England from the humiliation of making peace on the enemy's terms.

The Declaration of Paris, which that of London is to supplant, abolished privateering. There is nothing in the proposed rules to prevent the conversion of a merchant steamer into a man-of-war on the high seas, the question having been left open. But the omission would work to the advantage of England herself, for what other nation has so great a tonnage of fast merchant ships in the Seven Seas? Moreover, what other nation has so many fleet and powerful cruisers to overhaul privateers preying on her commerce?

As to contraband, its character will be settled for the first time. Such and

such articles will be contraband outright; some raw materials, foodstuffs, clothes, fuel, etc., will be conditional contraband; and there will be a "free list" of articles that can be imported under a neutral flag, among them raw materials necessary in British industry and representing about one-third of all imports. Hitherto each nation has decided for itself what was contraband, the law of nations being evoked or ignored as occasion arose.

A great outcry has been made about the so-called restriction of the zone of blockade, that is to say a blockade must be thoroughly effective to be recognized; but it has been well said that Articles 1 to 21 of the Declaration dealing with this question represent British naval opinion on the subject as it has been maintained for a hundred years. Moreover, the blockade rules were proposed by the British delegates. Other objections have been urged to the terms of the Declaration, but the most weighty we have outlined. There is no doubt that behind the opposition is a conviction that Germany is already a formidable trade and naval rival to England, and that in the event of war Germany would prove a ruthless belligerent in spite of the Declaration. But it was not made for the benefit of England alone; it was made for the good of all maritime nations, and particularly for the welfare of neutrals and to prevent war by referring grievous seizures at sea and the destruction of neutral ships to the International Prize Court for final adjudication. With the most powerful navy and the greatest mercantile marine in the world, England has resources enough to maintain the ascendancy of both and to protect her food supply in time of war from the ravages of any rival sea power, even Germany.

The Declaration of London was very much of England's making and she should abide by the work of her delegates. It is not a perfect document, and as it stands it would make the cost of a war with Germany a formidable thing to consider; but the war would also be costly to Germany; and the realization ought to act as a deterrent to both. In short, if England maintains the double naval standard, as she proposes to do, she has nothing to fear from the Declaration of London when she is a combatant. As a neutral she should greatly profit by it.

The Wreck of the Maine.

The plan of the War Department to sink the wreck of the battleship Maine in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean is founded in good judgment and good sense. Preservation of the hull would be justified only if it could be made to serve a useful purpose in the education of the men of the army and navy. Suggestions that the hull be placed in a museum or otherwise arranged for public inspection or that its metal be worked into medals are out of harmony with the requirements of dignity and good taste.

It is at least questionable whether the erection of the ship's mast as a monument in Arlington is advisable, though such use of any part of the Maine would arouse no opposition. The principal end to be kept in mind in disposing of the wreck is that it shall not pass into the control of men who might make unworthy use of it.

The appropriate and proper resting place for the ruins of the warship is the bottom of the sea, and the inaction of Congress on the subject indicates that the plans of the War Department are approved by the legislators.

A few encounters between car rowdies and determined citizens like the gentleman who on Saturday kicked a loafer into submission on the Third Avenue elevated railroad would have a most wholesome effect. It is unhappily true that some persons must have decency beaten into them.

Andrew Johnson's Tomb.

While Andrew Johnson may not have been a popular President, and is not often recalled, said Robert Johnson, a resident of one of the few Presidential tombs in the country which is honored by the presence of a paid watchman.

There is, of course, a watchman at the Grant tomb in New York, and possibly at the Garfield memorial at Cleveland, but most of the President's graves well kept are not actually guarded by a watchman.

"A few years ago the Government bought a small park including the plot of ground known as the President Johnson burial place, which was given the dignity of a national cemetery, maintained like all other national cemeteries by the Federal Government. This Andrew Johnson is now buried on Government ground, which will be kept for generations to come with funds from the Treasury."

"I do not know that as much honor is paid to the tomb of Washington by the Government, and certainly other great Presidents, like Jackson and Jefferson, have no Federal caretaking of their graves. Jackson is buried at the Hermitage, some miles out of Nashville, and Polk lies buried in the city, with a suitable monument, but there is no watchman paid by the Government to look over these tombs day and night. The Lincoln memorial is a day's ride from Washington, and the tomb is something of a museum and much visited. Very few visitors go to the Johnson tomb, near Greenville, but those who do find a man giving attention to and keeping the grounds in good condition."

Mean Music Lovers.

In the current Monthly Paper of St. Anne's, Sobor, the clergy congratulate their flock that the other torments at the Passion music services were this year singularly free from buttons, counterfeits, cologne, debased foreign coins, and other miscellaneous items, but regret to record that "many people who had the best seats in the church passed the time of the service in looking at the new buttons, many of which were of the finest quality of gold, silver, and bronze, by Woolner. The figure, 14 feet in height, stands in Hyde Park, Sydney."

The Test.

Diogenes was searching for an honest man. He will advertise that his summer resort was mosquitoes," explained the sage.

OLDER MANHATTAN.

Many Memories.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Who remembers the first time I stood at that crossing to see the train go by? Who remembers the Second Avenue of years ago? "Lovers' Lane" they called it. On each side of the avenue from Second street to Twenty-third street stood fine old mansions, most of them then occupied by the best of the people of the city. The Abendroth and Kane residences were especially fine houses. The avenue was tree embowered all the way up to Twenty-third street, and it was a delightful promenade.

I remember hearing Patti sing at the Academy of Music, two Campuses and Nilsson. Colonel Mapleson gave seasons of Italian grand opera under his direction. All the elite of the city used to attend, and during the performance the carriages of the wealthy used to block the streets and avenues near the Academy. I remember the time the Academy was burned down. It was afterward rebuilt.

I remember Lent's circus opposite the Academy of Music. The Melvilles performed there. Many a time as a kid I lined up near the stage door of the circus to see the melvilles. The circus came out after the performance. I remember the old Irving Hall, now the German Theatre. I remember the burning of St. George's Church on sixteenth street and Rutherford place. The day of the fire I stood on Second Avenue, looking at the tall iron railing surrounding Shuylkill Park, and I could see the burning embers falling into the vestibule entrance of the church. The fire did great damage and the steeples of the church had to be taken down, as they were considered unsafe. The Rev. Dr. Tying was minister of St. George's at that time. He was a fine gentleman, beloved by all.

I remember the Steinway Hall on Fourteenth street. Delightful concerts were given there. I remember Theodore Thomas's concert garden at Fifty-fifth street and Seventh Avenue.

I remember the old way of giving alarms of fire in this city. Wooden towers were erected at various points of the city. These had men on duty who used to ring out the alarm on the big bells. At times during the night one could hear the deep-toned bells give the alarm. Those were the days of the old volunteer fire department. Many a time I have seen the boys hoisting along pulling the heavy machine. I remember the old way of giving alarms of fire in this city. These had men on duty who used to ring out the alarm on the big bells. At times during the night one could hear the deep-toned bells give the alarm. Those were the days of the old volunteer fire department. Many a time I have seen the boys hoisting along pulling the heavy machine. I remember the old way of giving alarms of fire in this city. These had men on duty who used to ring out the alarm on the big bells. At times during the night one could hear the deep-toned bells give the alarm. 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